

Measure Up

Fall 2011

Assessment news for high school teachers



Did you know?

- **The NAEP long-term trend assessment will be administered in reading and mathematics to 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds during the 2011-2012 academic year.**
- **NAEP 2012 will include a national economics assessment at grade 12.**
- **Results for the NAEP 2011 reading and mathematics assessments will be released later this academic year.**

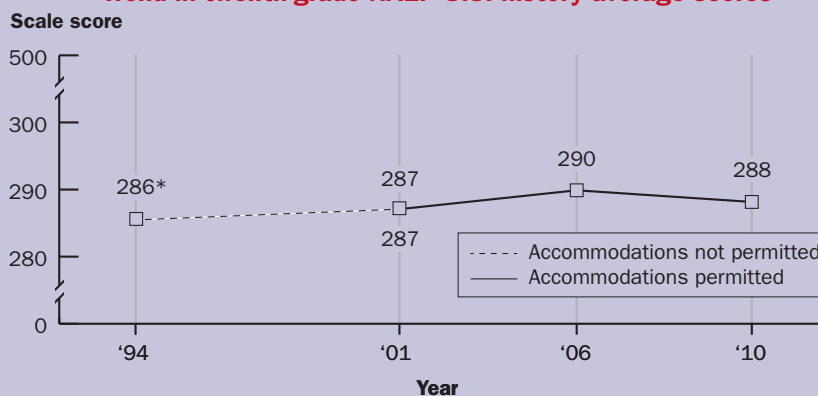


NAEP 2010 U.S. History Results

Students in grades 4, 8, and 12 participated in the 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in U.S. history. At each grade, students responded to questions designed to measure their knowledge of American history in the contexts of democracy, culture, technological and economic changes, and our nation's changing world role.

A nationally representative sample of more than 12,000 twelfth-graders participated. The graph below shows the average scale scores of twelfth-graders over time. The average score on the 2010 NAEP U.S. history assessment at grade 12 did not change significantly from 2006 to 2010 but was 2 points higher in 2010 than in 1994.

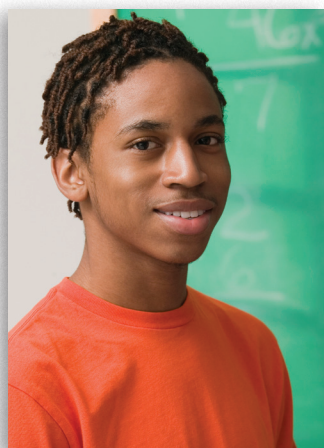
Trend in twelfth-grade NAEP U.S. history average scores



*Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2010.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), various years, 1994-2010 U.S. History Assessments.

NAEP results are reported as percentages of students performing at or above the *Basic* and *Proficient* levels and at the *Advanced* level. Forty-five percent of students performed at or above the *Basic* level in 2010, and 12 percent performed at or above the *Proficient* level. The percentages of students at or above *Basic*, at or above *Proficient*, or at *Advanced* in 2010 were not significantly different from the percentages in previous assessment years.



Grade 12 U.S. History Achievement Levels

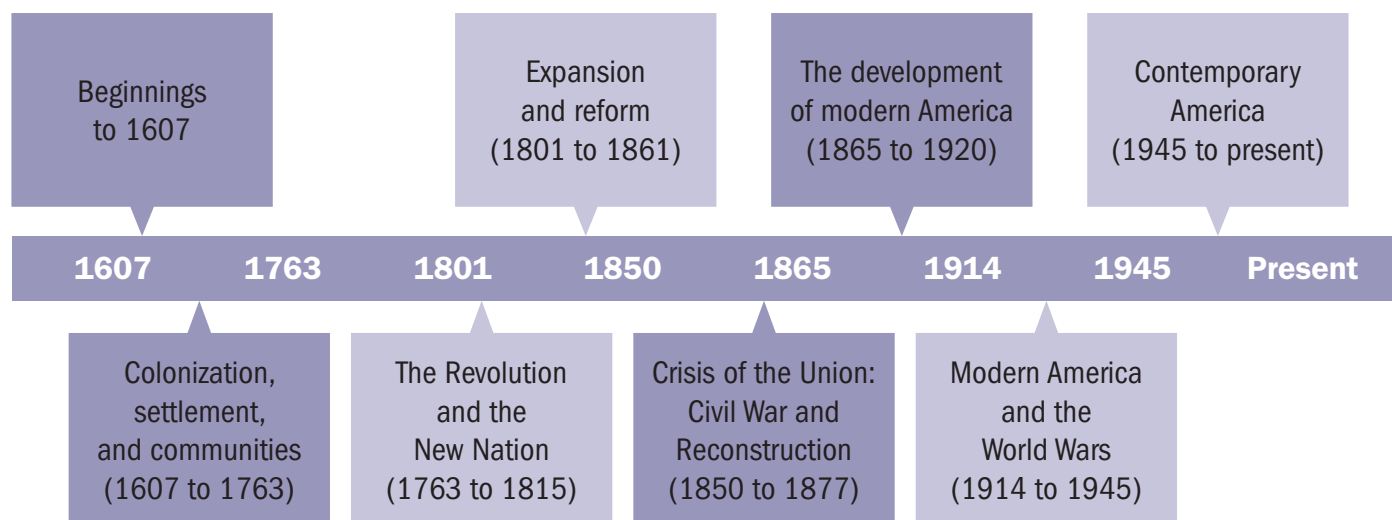
In the 2010 NAEP U.S. history assessment, 45 percent of twelfth-graders performed at or above the *Basic* level. Examples of skills demonstrated by students performing at the three different achievement levels are shown below.

Achievement Level	Description	Twelfth-graders performing at this level can...
Basic	<i>Basic</i> denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work.	Understand the context of a women's movement document.
Proficient	<i>Proficient</i> represents solid academic performance, with students demonstrating competency over challenging subject matter.	Understand Missouri statehood in the context of sectionalism.
Advanced	<i>Advanced</i> represents superior academic performance.	Evaluate Civil War arguments.

NAEP 2010 U.S. History Content

According to the U.S. history framework developed by the National Assessment Governing Board, the assessment was organized around three main components: *Themes in U.S. History*, *Periods of U.S. History*, and *Ways of Knowing and Thinking about U.S. History*.

Eight chronological periods were used in developing the assessment to ensure appropriate chronological coverage. The periods focus attention on several major eras of U.S. history and overlap at times. The eight periods are as follows:

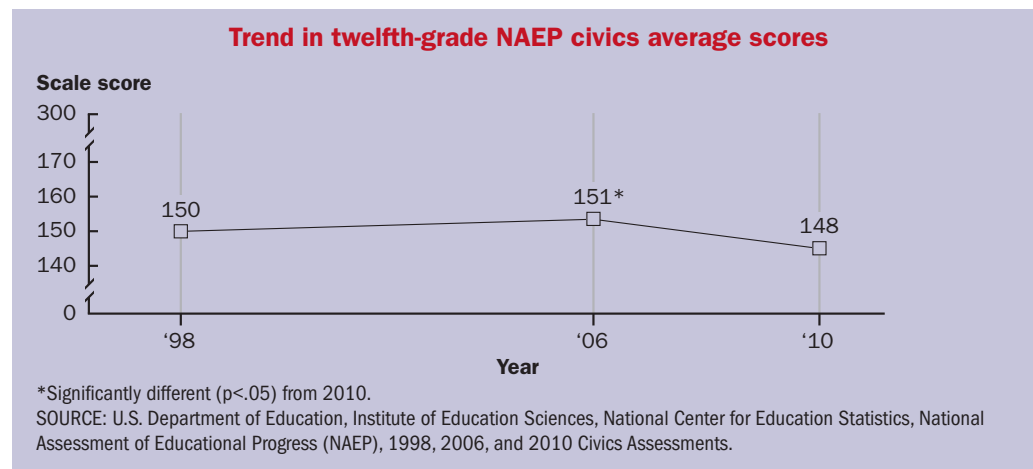


NAEP 2010 Civics Results

Grade 12 students participated in the 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in civics and responded to questions designed to measure their civics knowledge, intellectual and participatory skills, and civic dispositions. Students' performance on the NAEP civics assessment declined from 2006 to 2010 at grade 12. Although the average score for the nation's twelfth-graders in 2010 was 3 points lower than in 2006, it was not significantly different from the score in 1998.



Approximately 42 percent of twelfth-graders had principals who reported more than one-quarter of their students were currently enrolled in an Advanced Placement U.S. government and politics course.



Grade 12 Civics Achievement Levels

In the 2010 NAEP civics assessment, 64 percent of twelfth-graders performed at or above the *Basic* level and 36 percent of twelfth-graders scored below the *Basic* level. Examples of skills demonstrated by students performing at the three different achievement levels are shown below.

Achievement Level	Description	Twelfth-graders performing at this level can...
Basic	<i>Basic</i> denotes partial mastery of pre-requisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work.	Identify the meaning of a Supreme Court opinion.
Proficient	<i>Proficient</i> represents solid academic performance, with students demonstrating competency over challenging subject matter.	Identify the effect of U.S. foreign policy on other nations.
Advanced	<i>Advanced</i> represents superior academic performance.	Compare the citizenship requirements of the U.S. to other countries.

What Is The Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

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If you want to...

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View NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states
Access specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or demographic groups	The NAEP Data Explorer at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata
Find information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions	The NAEP Questions Tool at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx
Download a Sample Questions booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp
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